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Services Division

Committee on European Satellites

(EuSat Committee Meeting - 22nd Meeting - 1330 22 August 1956)

Present:

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Two FDD linguists met with the EuSat Committee on 22 August to discuss problems of mutual ORR and FDD interest. These representatives of FDD were [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] who handles Bulgarian information and [REDACTED] who handles Rumanian and Albanian materials.

The primary issue before the meeting was the recent introduction of priorities in the translation effort concerning the European Satellites. In the past, satellite linguists attempted to cover a very wide range of subjects and, because only a few people were assigned to this activity, the treatment tended to be rather scattered and superficial. Under the new program the bulk of the available man-hours is devoted to a few selected priority subjects which are treated in depth. Other subjects are covered on an individual-request basis to the extent of 20 percent of the linguists' available time. The specific subjects included in the priority category vary from one country to another but obviously some components of ORR are not receiving nearly as much service from FDD as they were previously.

The discussion revealed considerable dissatisfaction on the part of ORR analysts with the new FDD program. While it was recognized that more abundant information in priority fields would improve ORR products within those fields, most of the analysts appeared to feel that it was unfortunate that some subjects would be virtually untouched by FDD. The problem is especially serious in view of the fact that (1) open-source publications are so basically important to ORR's research on the satellites and (2) the multiplicity of languages

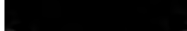
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in the satellite area makes it necessary for ORR analysts to rely so heavily on the translation services of FDD and other organizations. Not only was their dissatisfaction expressed with regard to the neglect of non-priority subjects but also there was a feeling that some of the priorities did not reflect ORR's view as to the relative importance of the various subject-fields.

A few suggestions were offered as to how ORR analysts might secure better translation service than is presently available under the new satellite FDD program: (1) attempt to convince responsible officials in the organization that more translation effort is needed in the satellite branch of FDD; (2) persuade proper authorities in the State Department to expand the press review program (especially in Rumania where the service is relatively poor); and (3) encourage the further use of external translation services.

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 S/TR analyst will present on 29 August, a review, analysis and forecast of transportation developments in the European Satellites 1950-1960.

The meeting will be held, as usual, in room 2130 M at 1330 on Wednesday.



Chairman

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